

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 December 2004 (29.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/113979 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G02B 6/20**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/002625

(22) International Filing Date: 21 June 2004 (21.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0314485.4 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003) GB

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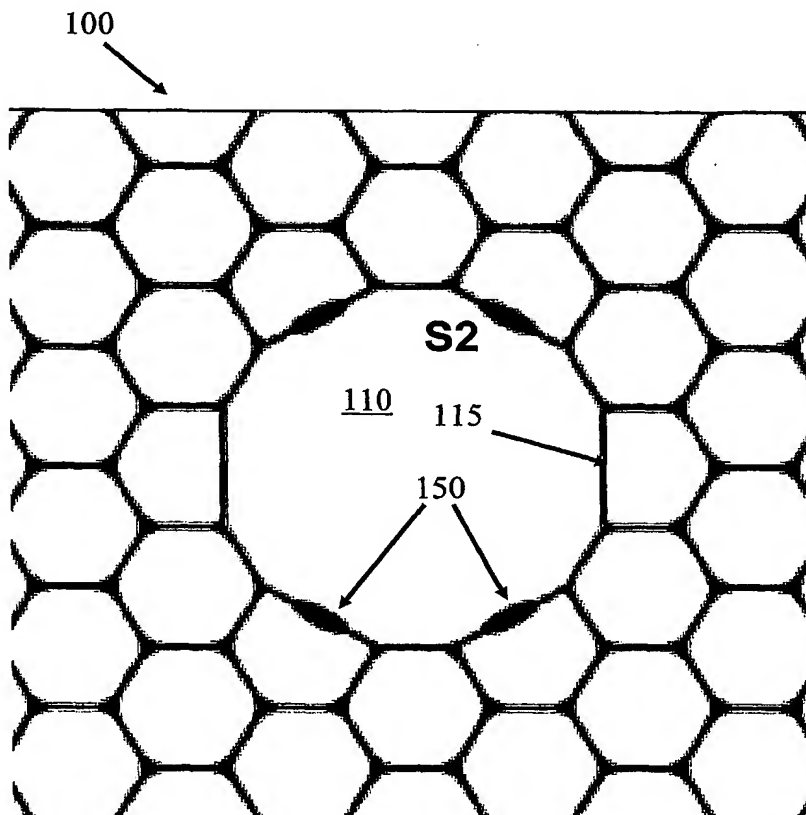
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **BIREFRINGENT PHOTONIC BANDGAP OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE**



(57) Abstract: A birefringent elongate waveguide for guiding light, comprises: a core region (110), comprising an elongate region of relatively low refractive index; and a cladding region (100), comprising elongate regions (105) of relatively low refractive index interspersed with elongate regions (117, 120) of relatively high refractive index. In a transverse cross-section of the waveguide, a (5) relatively high refractive index boundary region (115) is provided that surrounds the core region and has either (1) at most two-fold rotational symmetry or (2) a rotational symmetry that reduces the rotational symmetry of the waveguide to at most two-fold rotational symmetry. The symmetry of the boundary region (115) results at least in part from azimuthal variations therein, which are substantially uncharacteristic of the cladding region (100).



European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— *with international search report*